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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "CRACKED PIPELINE IS BLAMED FOR AVIATION FUEL SPILL IN
TARRANT CREEK" NAS FORT WORTH TX
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**NAVAL AIR STATION
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**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD
COVER SHEET**

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Cracked pipeline is blamed for aviation fuel spill in Tarrant creek

BY BILL TEETER
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

WESTWORTH VILLAGE — A pipeline has been pinpointed as the culprit in a jet fuel spill that contaminated a creek near Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base.

Pride Refining of Abilene will pay to clean up spillage from a fissure in its 6-inch diameter line carrying fuel to Carswell from an Aledo pipeline terminal, said Ed Sierra, director of the Fort Worth Environmental Department.

"They've assumed total responsibility for it. They are going to pick up all of the cleanup costs that have been incurred," Sierra said.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission estimated the spill into the creek at about 500 gallons, but no precise figures were known yesterday, said Dave Caddell, vice president and general counsel of Pride Refining.

Officials could not estimate yesterday how long the cleanup will take.

The spill is in Kings Branch creek, which

is in Fort Worth and Westworth Village.

Westworth Village Mayor Betty Sarlis said the fuel killed fish in the creek. Early investigation indicated that drinking water supplies were not contaminated, said Terry Hadley, a spokesman for the conservation commission.

The spill was detected late Friday after Westworth Village residents reported a foul odor.

Most of the odor had dissipated by yes-

terday. Westworth Village residents interviewed yesterday said their lives were mostly unaffected by the spill.

"We haven't had any problems with it," said Tom Williams, a 38-year-old nursing student who lives on Holloway Street. "As long as it's not in the water supply, I'm not real concerned."

Flo Jackson, 75, who lives up the street, said, "I didn't even know about it."

The pipeline is about 1,200 feet from Kings Branch creek. Pride Refining will

have to assess how much earth must be excavated between the pipeline and the creek, Caddell said.

Yesterday, Pride Refining was forcing fuel out of the line with nitrogen gas to prevent more spillage. At the creek, floating booms were being used to contain the spill as the fuel-laden water was pumped out. A ring of jet fuel, left as the water level drops, must be sopped up, said Rick Roark, vice president of EmTech, a private company contracted to do the clean-up.

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